

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 6 and 7 have been amended. Claims 2, 3 and 5 have been cancelled. Claims 8 to 10 have been added.

The present invention defined in currently amended claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over Shibata (20010004269) and Bum (7200423) by the following reasons.

The technical features of the mobile communication apparatus defined in currently amended claim 1 are as follows:

- (1a) first and second housings each having front and rear surfaces and a rotation axis located between the front and rear surfaces,
- (1b) displaying means provided on the front surface of the first housing, and adapted to display image data or character data on a screen,
- (1c) operating means provided on the front surface of the second housing, and having a plurality of keys to be selectively operated by a user,
- (1d) rotating means for connecting the first housing with the second housing, and to allow the first and second housings to be rotated with respect to each other under the condition that the rotation axis of each of the first and second housings is axially aligned with the longitudinal axis,
- (1e) rotation angle detecting means for detecting a rotation angle and a rotation direction of one of the first and second housings with respect to the other of the first and second housings when the first and second housings are rotated with respect to each other,
- (1f) setting means for selecting, from among the operation modes, an operation mode corresponding to the combination of the rotation angle and rotation direction detected by the rotation angle detecting means, and setting the selected operation mode to ensure that the mobile communication apparatus assumes the selected operation mode.

The advantageous effects of the mobile communication apparatus defined in currently amended claim 1 are as follows:

- (i) When the first and second housings are rotated with respect to each other in the clockwise direction or in the counterclockwise direction, the mobile communication apparatus can assume an operation mode corresponding to the combination of the rotation angle and rotation direction. When the mobile communication apparatus such as for example cellular phone selectively assumes the operation modes, the first housing 2 is repeatedly rotated by a specific angle such as for example **180** degrees, **45** degrees with respect to the second housing. However, the specific angle may be defined with an angle smaller than **45** degrees.
- (ii) The mobile communication apparatus can provide an enhanced operability with no open

and close operations.

(iii) The mobile communication apparatus can switch from the present operation mode to other operation mode with enhanced operability. The mobile communication apparatus has a plurality of operation modes each of which corresponds to the combination of the rotation angle and rotation direction.

From the constituent elements (1d) to (1f) of currently amended claim 1, it will be understood that the mobile communication apparatus comprises rotating means for connecting the first housing with the second housing, and to allow the first and second housings to be rotated with respect to each other under the condition that the rotation axis of each of the first and second housings is axially aligned with the longitudinal axis, rotation angle detecting means for detecting a rotation angle and a rotation direction of one of the first and second housings with respect to the other of the first and second housings when the first and second housings are rotated with respect to each other, and setting means for selecting, from among the operation modes, an operation mode corresponding to the combination of the rotation angle and rotation direction detected by the rotation angle detecting means, and setting the selected operation mode to ensure that the mobile communication apparatus assumes the selected operation mode.

On the other hand, Shibata (20010004269) discloses a portable terminal which comprises a main unit having a microphone, a key operation unit, and a radio sending/receiving function of image and sound, a rotation axial unit having a video camera and an operation dial, an image display unit with a touch panel capable of displaying an image taken by the video camera, a received image and a screen for input operation, and a flip unit having the image display unit, a CCD camera, a speaker and an operation button. The rotation axial unit further includes an opening/shutting axis for connecting the main unit and the flip unit in a mutually rotatable way and a rotation axis for connecting the flip unit in a way of rotating the flip unit across the above rotation in the horizontal direction, and when the flip unit is opened and rotated across, it is used as a video camera with a monitor. However, Shibata (20010004269) fails to disclose a mobile communication apparatus which comprises rotating means for connecting the first housing with the second housing, and to allow the first and second housings to be rotated with respect to each other under the condition that the rotation axis of each of the first and second housings is axially aligned with the longitudinal axis, rotation angle detecting means for detecting a rotation angle and a rotation direction of one of the first and second housings with respect to the other of the first and second housings when the first and second housings are rotated with respect to each other, and setting means for selecting, from among the operation modes, an operation mode corresponding to the combination of the rotation angle and rotation

direction detected by the rotation angle detecting means, and setting the selected operation mode to ensure that the mobile communication apparatus assumes the selected operation mode.

The mobile communication apparatus defined in currently amended claim 1 is completely different in construction from the portable terminal disclosed in Shibata (20010004269).

Further, the mobile communication apparatus defined in currently amended claim 1 can attain the above-mentioned advantageous effects (i) to (iii). However, the portable terminal disclosed in Shibata (20010004269) cannot expect the advantageous effects (i) to (iii) of the mobile communication apparatus defined in currently amended claim 1 because Shibata (20010004269) fails to disclose a mobile communication apparatus which comprises rotating means for connecting the first housing with the second housing, and to allow the first and second housings to be rotated with respect to each other under the condition that the rotation axis of each of the first and second housings is axially aligned with the longitudinal axis, rotation angle detecting means for detecting a rotation angle and a rotation direction of one of the first and second housings with respect to the other of the first and second housings when the first and second housings are rotated with respect to each other, and setting means for selecting, from among the operation modes, an operation mode corresponding to the combination of the rotation angle and rotation direction detected by the rotation angle detecting means, and setting the selected operation mode to ensure that the mobile communication apparatus assumes the selected operation mode.

Bum (7200423) discloses a mobile terminal which includes: a first casing having a key input unit with a plurality of keys; a second casing having a display unit for displaying characters and images; a connecting member having its one end hinge-connected to the first casing to overlap with the first casing, and its other end connected to contact one area of the second casing; a rotating means provided between one area of the second casing and the other end of the connecting member, for rotating the second casing along a contact surface to the connecting member within a predetermined angle; and a signal processing device for converting an image displayed on the display unit, when the second casing is rotated by the rotating means. The mobile terminal can mechanically change the position of the display unit in the horizontal or vertical direction to vary the magnitude of the image displayed on the display unit, so that the user can watch movies, motion pictures and contents through a larger screen. However, Bum (7200423) fails to disclose a mobile communication apparatus which comprises rotating means for connecting the first housing with the second housing, and to allow the first and second housings to be rotated with respect to each other under the condition that the rotation axis of each

of the first and second housings is axially aligned with the longitudinal axis, rotation angle detecting means for detecting a rotation angle and a rotation direction of one of the first and second housings with respect to the other of the first and second housings when the first and second housings are rotated with respect to each other, and setting means for selecting, from among the operation modes, an operation mode corresponding to the combination of the rotation angle and rotation direction detected by the rotation angle detecting means, and setting the selected operation mode to ensure that the mobile communication apparatus assumes the selected operation mode.

The mobile communication apparatus defined in currently amended claim 1 is completely different in construction from the mobile terminal disclosed in Bum (7200423).

Further, the mobile communication apparatus defined in currently amended claim 1 can attain the above-mentioned advantageous effects (i) to (iii). However, the mobile terminal disclosed in Bum (7200423) cannot expect the advantageous effects (i) to (iii) of the mobile communication apparatus defined in currently amended claim 1 because Bum (7200423) fails to disclose a mobile communication apparatus which comprises rotating means for connecting the first housing with the second housing, and to allow the first and second housings to be rotated with respect to each other under the condition that the rotation axis of each of the first and second housings is axially aligned with the longitudinal axis, rotation angle detecting means for detecting a rotation angle and a rotation direction of one of the first and second housings with respect to the other of the first and second housings when the first and second housings are rotated with respect to each other, and setting means for selecting, from among the operation modes, an operation mode corresponding to the combination of the rotation angle and rotation direction detected by the rotation angle detecting means, and setting the selected operation mode to ensure that the mobile communication apparatus assumes the selected operation mode.

As will be appreciated from the foregoing description, the present invention defined in currently amended claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the disclosure of Shibata (20010004269) and Bum (7200423).

Claim 4 depends from currently amended claim 1 which is believed to be patentably distinguishable over Shibata (20010004269) and Bum (7200423) as will be understood from the previously mentioned reasons. It is, therefore, believed that the present invention defined in claim 4 is patentably distinguishable over the disclosure of Shibata (20010004269) and Bum (7200423).

Claim 6 depends from currently amended claim 1 which is believed to be patentably distinguishable over Shibata (20010004269) and Bum (7200423) as will be understood from the

previously mentioned reasons. It is, therefore, believed that the present invention defined in claim 6 is patentably distinguishable over the disclosure of Shibata (20010004269) and Bum (7200423).

Claim 7 depends from currently amended claim 6 which is believed to be patentably distinguishable over Shibata (20010004269) and Bum (7200423) as will be understood from the previously mentioned reasons. It is, therefore, believed that the present invention defined in claim 7 is patentably distinguishable over the disclosure of Shibata (20010004269) and Bum (7200423).

Claim 8 depends from currently amended claim 1 which is believed to be patentably distinguishable over Shibata (20010004269) and Bum (7200423) as will be understood from the previously mentioned reasons. It is, therefore, believed that the present invention defined in claim 8 is patentably distinguishable over the disclosure of Shibata (20010004269) and Bum (7200423).

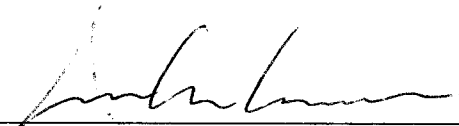
Claim 9 depends from currently amended claim 1 which is believed to be patentably distinguishable over Shibata (20010004269) and Bum (7200423) as will be understood from the previously mentioned reasons. It is, therefore, believed that the present invention defined in claim 9 is patentably distinguishable over the disclosure of Shibata (20010004269) and Bum (7200423).

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is thus in condition for allowance.

If any fees are required by this communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, Order No. 38267.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: November 16, 2007